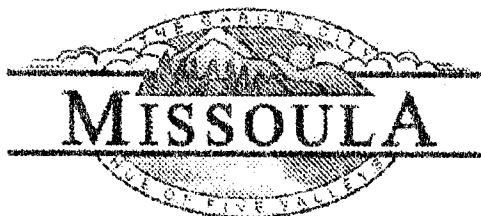


EXHIBIT 3
DATE 02/01/07
HB 400

CITY OF MISSOULA



CITY OF MISSOULA
435 RYMAN
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

FAX COVER PAGE

Date: 2/1/2007 From: Melani Coyle
To: Members of the House Department: Mayor
Agriculture Committee
Fax: (406) 327-2122

Regarding: City of Missoula's Opposition to HB 400

Total pages with cover: 3

If you did not receive all of the pages or if pages cannot be read, please call: 552-6003 as soon as possible.

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Chairman Butcher and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

This is Mayor John Engen's letter of opposition.

Melani Coyle
Administrative Secretary



JOHN ENGEN

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

435 RYMAN MISSOULA, MONTANA 59802-4297

January 31, 2007

Chairman Edward Butcher, and
Members of the House Agriculture Committee
Montana House of Representatives
PO Box 200400
Helena, MT 59620-0400

Sent via email and FAX to (406) 444-4825

Chairman Butcher and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

The City of Missoula would like to go on record in opposition of Representative Dan Villa's House Bill 400. Current state law provides the option of appointing a member of the Board of Supervisors of the applicable Conservation District to the City-County Planning Board. If that option is agreed upon, the Planning Board members appoint a member from the Conservation District Board to their board.

House Bill 400 changes that procedure by giving the appointment power to the Conservation District Board rather than to the Planning Board. The City of Missoula does not support this legislation because it essentially takes away local control of who is appointed to a local board.

The bill also expands the pool of possible appointees to include the associate members of the Conservation District Board. The City of Missoula is not adverse to this amendment knowing that any member of the Conservation District Board must be qualified and knowledgeable and already participate in all aspects and responsibilities as the regular members, other than the voting.

We in Missoula feel that it's important to maintain local control of citizen board appointments. I respectfully ask that you take into account my concern regarding the revision to the appointment provisions when considering this legislation.

We urge you to not pass this bill out of committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Engen".

John Engen
Mayor

cc: Alec Hansen, Montana League of Cities and Towns